

1     **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 2             1.    A pallet assembly comprising:  
3             a first deck member;  
4             a second deck member mounted to the first deck member, the second deck  
5 member having a first predetermined fire retardancy;  
6             a third deck member spaced from the second deck member;  
7             a fourth deck member mounted to the third deck member, the fourth deck  
8 member having a second predetermined fire retardancy; and  
9             at least one column member extending between the second and third deck  
10 members, the at least one column having a third predetermined fire retardancy lower  
11 than that of the second and fourth decks.
- 12            2.    The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one column member  
13 has a first end and a second end, the first end mounted to the second deck member,  
14 and the second end mounted to the third deck member.
- 15            3.    The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the first deck member has an  
16 other predetermined fire retardancy less than that of the second deck member.
- 17            4.    The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the third deck member has an  
18 other predetermined fire retardancy less than that of the second deck member.
- 19            5.    The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the third deck member has a  
20 fire retardancy substantially equivalent to that of the at least one column member.
- 21            6.    The pallet assembly of claim 1, further comprising at least one elongated  
22 reinforcement member extending within at least one of the top and bottom decks.
- 23            7.    The pallet assembly of claim 1, wherein the top member and mid-top  
24 member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.
- 25            8.    The pallet assembly of claim 1, wherein the bottom member and mid-  
26 bottom member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

1           9.     A pallet assembly comprising:  
2           a top deck having a top deck upper surface and a top deck lower surface, the  
3 top deck having a first predetermined fire retardancy;  
4           a bottom deck having a bottom deck upper surface and a bottom deck lower  
5 surface, the bottom deck spaced apart from the top deck and having a second  
6 predetermined fire retardancy; and  
7           at least one column extending between the top deck and bottom deck, the at  
8 least one column having an other fire retardancy lower than at least one of the first  
9 and second fire retardancies.

10           10.    The pallet assembly of claim 9, further comprising at least one  
11 elongated reinforcement member extending within at least one of the top and bottom  
12 decks.

13           11.    The pallet assembly of claim 9, wherein the top deck comprises a top  
14 member and a mid-top member which are joined together.

15           12.    The pallet assembly of claim 11, wherein the top member and mid-top  
16 member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

17           13.    The pallet assembly of claim 11, wherein the bottom deck comprises  
18 a bottom member and a mid-bottom member.

19           14.    The pallet assembly of claim 13, wherein the bottom member and  
20 mid-bottom member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

21           15.    The pallet assembly of claim 9, wherein the top deck has a plurality  
22 of box beam sections disposed therein between the top deck upper surface and the  
23 top deck lower surface.

24           16.    The pallet assembly of claim 9, wherein the bottom deck has a  
25 plurality of box beam sections disposed therein between the bottom deck upper  
26 surface and the bottom deck lower surface.

1 17. A pallet assembly comprising:  
2 a first deck member;  
3 a second deck member mounted to the first deck member, the second deck  
4 member having a predetermined fire retardancy;  
5 a third deck member spaced from the second deck member;  
6 a fourth deck member mounted to the third deck member; and  
7 at least one column member extending between the second and third deck  
8 members and attached thereto,  
9 wherein the first deck member, third deck member, fourth deck member and  
10 the at least one column member each has an other predetermined fire retardancy  
11 which is less than that of the second deck member.

12 18. The pallet assembly of claim 17 wherein the at least one column  
13 member has a first column end and a second column end, the first column end  
14 mounted to the second deck member, and the second column end mounted to the  
15 third deck member.

16 19. The pallet assembly of claim 17, further comprising at least one  
17 elongated reinforcement member extending within at least one of the top and bottom  
18 decks.

19 20. The pallet assembly of claim 17, wherein the top member and mid-top  
20 member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

21 21. The pallet assembly of claim 17, wherein the bottom member and  
22 mid-bottom member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

23 22. A pallet assembly comprising:  
24 a horizontally-disposed first portion formed of a polymeric material and  
25 having a first top surface and a first bottom surface, the first portion having a first  
26 predetermined fire retardancy;  
27 a horizontally-disposed second portion formed of a polymeric material and  
28 having a second top surface and a second bottom surface, the second portion having  
29 a second predetermined fire retardancy;

23. The pallet assembly of claim 22, wherein the first portion is a pallet top deck, the second portion is a pallet bottom deck, and the vertically-disposed portion is a column.

Figure 1 displays 12 horizontal gel electrophoresis images, labeled (a) through (l). Each image shows a series of horizontal bands representing DNA fragments. The bands are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with each image containing multiple lanes. The labels (a) through (l) are positioned to the left of each corresponding gel image. The bands vary in intensity and position across the different images, indicating different DNA fragment profiles.